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Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-15 IO-15 /092 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6232
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

UNCLAS TOKYO 03919

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, JA, SK
SUBJECT: JAPANESE REACTION TO RESTORATION OF KIM TAE-CHUNG'S CIVIL RIGHTS

REF: FBIS OKINAWA 04290405

1. SUMMARY. GOJ HAS WELCOMED RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS TO KIM TAE-CHUNG AND NEARLY 700 OTHERS, AS DID OPPOSITION PARTIES. GOJ HAS REMAINED FIRM IN ASSERTING THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGE IN ITS VIEW THAT CASE OF KIM'S ABDUCTION FROM TOKYO IN 1973 HAD BEEN POLITICALLY RESOLVED; ON THIS POINT OPPOSITION PARTIES PREDICTABLY DISAGREED AND CALLED ONCE MORE FOR GOVERNMENT TO REEXAMINE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF KIM INCIDENT. END SUMMARY.

2. RESPONDING TO NEWSMEN'S QUESTIONS FOLLOWING ROKG ANNOUNCEMENT FEBRUARY 29 OF RESTORATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS TO 687 FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING KIM TAE-CHUNG, PRIME MINISTER OHIRA WELCOMED ROKG ACTION AND SAID IT WAS GRATIFYING THAT CHANGES WERE PROGRESSING IN ATMOSPHERE OF
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PEACE AND CALM IN ROK. CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ITO, AT

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GIC, MR
REVIEWED BY HT DATE 8/18/82
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE ____ REASON(S) ____
TS AUTH. ____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 29, SAID HE VIEWED ROKG MEASURES AS PART OF MOVE TO CARRY OUT REFORMS IN ORDERLY MANNER WHILE PROMOTING UNITY AMONG ITS PEOPLE. ITO REPEATED GOJ POSITION THAT KIM TAE-CHUNG KIDNAPPING WOULD NOT BE RE-OPENED, INASMUCH AS INCIDENT HAD BEEN POLITICALLY SETTLED, UNLESS NEW EVIDENCE WERE OBTAINED (REFTEL). TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT, IN SEPARATE STATEMENT, SAID IT WOULD WELCOME VISIT BY KIM TO JAPAN, AS OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION HO GAIN NEW EVIDENCE CONCERNING HIS 1973 ABDUCTION. (MPD STILL HAS 21 OFFICERS ASSIGNED TO NOW 6-YEAR OLD INVESTIGATION.)

3. ON OTHER HAND, ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMANDED THAT GOJ TAKE NEW LOOK AT 1975 POLITICAL SETTLEMENT OF KIM'S KIDNAPPING. JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY STATEMENT EXPRESSED HOPE REINSTATEMENT OF KIM'S CIVIL RIGHTS WOULD HASTEN KOREA'S SHIFT TOWARD DEMOCRACY AND PROMOTE DIALOGUE BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA. KOMEITO AND DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY TOOK ESSENTIALLY SAME LINE, ALTHOUGH WITH LESS REFERENCE TO NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. JAPAN COMMUNIST PARTY, HOWEVER, SAID IT WAS REGRETTABLE THAT SOUTH KOREA REMAINED UNDER MARTIAL LAW, CALLING RELEASE OF 687 OVERDUE AND POINTING OUT THAT OTHERS STILL REMAINED IN JAIL.

4. FOLLOWING KIM TAE-CHUNG'S STATEMENT MARCH 1 THAT HE NO LONGER WANTED TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF HIS 1973 ABDUCTION FROM TOKYO TO SEOUL, CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY ITO SAID KIM'S ATTITUDE SHOWED HIS "DISCERNMENT AS A POLITICIAN." YOMIURI REPORTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS APPEARED RELIEVED AT NEWS THAT KIM WOULD NO LONGER PURSUE INCIDENT, WITH ONE OFFICIAL QUOTED AS COMMENTING THAT KIM'S BIGGEST CONCERN NOW WAS ELECTION CAMPAIGN AND NOT ABDUCTION CASE.
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